



**CAIRO INSTITUTE**  
**FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES**  
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme  
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان



**Human Rights Council 24th Session**  
**Oral Intervention**  
**Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies and Al-Haq**  
**Item 7 General Debate**  
**Delivered by Paola Salwan Daher**

**Thank you, Mr. President.**

The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies and Al-Haq welcome the Secretary General's report on the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories (OPT) and east Jerusalem. We specifically welcome the recommendation made to the Israeli government to conduct independent, impartial, thorough, prompt, and effective investigations into all allegations of serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, especially with regards to preventing and addressing human rights violations committed by settlers against Palestinian civilians.

Our organizations remain seriously concerned by the ongoing expansion of illegal Israeli settlements which is leading to the destruction of Palestinian homes and to the eviction and displacement of many Palestinians, and we welcome any initiative aiming at curbing and stopping this expansion.

We particularly welcome the new EU guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes, and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards that bar firms based in illegal settlements from receiving EU subsidies and require Israeli institutions or firms to submit a declaration stating that they are not active in illegal settlements when they apply for EU grants or loans.

Given this positive step by the EU, we regret to witness ongoing efforts by the EU at the Human Rights Council to cancel agenda item 7, as expressed in many of the EU's statements, latest of which was made during the general debate under item 7 at the 22nd session of this Council and suggested that the human rights situation in OPT could be usefully addressed under agenda item 4. We strongly oppose this view and believe that the chronic, long-term and severe nature of the human rights violations taking place in OPT require the preservation of agenda item 7. Focus on human rights violations perpetrated by Israel should be maintained, especially now that Israel has become the first and only state to unilaterally sever all participation and collaboration with the Human Rights Council, a body of the United Nations General Assembly.

We strongly object to all efforts undermining this initiative and again emphasize our previous position that peace cannot be established to the detriment of justice. We therefore urge this Council to maintain agenda item 7.

**Thank you, Mr. President.**